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IDEA-0339  
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8 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD  
Chief, Materiel Staff, DPD

SUBJECT : J-75 Conversions and Modifications to Existing J-57  
Equipment

1. Kelly Johnson called me 7 June somewhat exercised about the fact that he was instructed by personnel unnamed in Headquarters to proceed rapidly with certain modifications to Articles 344 and 378, both J-57 model U-2's now at Burbank, which modifications would be completely useless in the event we decide to convert either of these aircraft to J-75 configuration. As you know, he is aware of our prospective intent to accomplish not only the instant conversion for which approval is being sought, but several more further into Fiscal 62 as a result of Mr. Bissell's request that this be done.

2. I told him that I was not that familiar with the matter, but that I would take it up with both [ ] and [ ] to see that we would not request any unproductive work which could possibly be overtaken by events should we go the full distance on converting the entire U-2 fleet.

3. May I ask that either or both of you give me sufficient information to be helpful in dealing with Kelly on this subject. I might mention that General Cabell called 6 June to ask me how close we were to submitting a proposal for conversions or tin cutting on some or all of the remaining U-2's, and I told him I had asked Operations to come up with a proposal, in company with Materiel, so that we could submit a Division recommendation to Mr. Bissell on this subject. I would like to know, therefore, what the status of our thinking on the whole conversion problem is.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief  
DPD-DD/P

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Approved For Release 2002/07/31 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000600080129-6

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